

# THE MAYOR'S REPORT

*"What's Happening Servant Leader?"*



*Our Budget is done to uplift YOU*

**Mayor Walter Lee James, Jr.**

**8 May 2017**

**"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"**

**"Valuing People Over Position" – Walter Lee James, Jr.**



## Mayor Walter Lee James, Jr. April 2017 Community Report

### Substantive Meetings/Events

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting with Residents regarding Rosina Baldi Park Renovations**

On April 17, 2017 the town hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> community listening session with representatives from Park and Planning. The session was scheduled so that we could hear from our community as it related to the renovations that are being planned for the Rosina Baldi Park, located on Varnum Street. It was communicated that the park is scheduled to have the new playground equipment installed by next Spring/Summer. Below is the playground that the community has decided is the most attractive and best fit:



In addition to the playground, there were discussions surrounding courts and other activities at the park to meet the needs of members in our community. Some of the suggestions included having both tennis and basketball courts as well as exercise equipment, similar to what we have at our Town Hall Park. The playground equipment has been ordered. This concern regarding parking also was discussed by the community. We are working to identify additional parking areas. We are planning to speak with the near church to request the use of their parking lot. Thanks to all the community members who came out to let their voices be heard.

#### **Bladensburg Library Meeting**

Thanks to the Mr. Tinelli, Council Members Ficklin and Mendoza and our First Lady Takisha James along with several community members for attending the Bladensburg Library meeting that was held on April 24, 2017 in Cheverly. I stopped by at the very beginning and spoke with

the presenters, but had to leave to represent the Town at the Port Towns Quarterly Meeting. A few things that were shared at the meeting included the proposed new library redesign will be a 2 story, 20,000 +/- square feet. It will be an open space design, which will make the space adaptable to meet future and diverse needs. The 1st floor will have 8-10 study rooms/maker spaces. We hope to have 30-45 computer stations and WIFI. The Main collection of books and other supplies will be on the first floor. It is being proposed that there be approximately 1,000 sq. ft. of meeting space on the second floor, which could hold up to 85 people.

In addition, to discussion regarding the design, there were concerns raised regarding utility poles, storm-water management and parking. We will inform all residents and stakeholders with any additional developments as it relates to our new Bladensburg Library.

### **Budget Meetings**

Thanks to all the residents who have come out to our budget meetings to discuss and express their input regarding the FY18 Town of Bladensburg budget. We are confident that we will have a solid and fiscally responsible budget that addresses the needs of our community and positions us to fulfill our strategic plan and vision.

### **SeeClickFix**

I have asked our town administrator to look into this service for our community. This web based program/application is local municipalities' version of 311. We will share more about this when we get more information. I believe this will be a service that will assist the town government in being even more efficient and responsive to our residents and stakeholders.

### **CINCO DE MAYO**

The strength of our community is its diversity. Therefore, it was an honor to attend our Cinco de Mayo event, which was held in the Town of Edmonston this year. Thanks to Council Member Cris Mendoza and our very own Mrs. Guzman, for putting together a wonderful event. I had a chance to meet the Mexican Consulate Rafael Laveaga. (*see photo*)











**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

- Bladensburg High School PTSA Meeting 6:00PM – 8:00PM